

Doug Owens proposes the following substitute bill:

Water Loss Study Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Doug Owens

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE

Committee Note:

The Legislative Water Development Commission recommended this bill.

Legislative Vote: 8 voting for 0 voting against 6 absent

General Description:

This bill directs the Division of Water Resources (division) to study reported data regarding water loss.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- requires the division to conduct a study regarding water loss;
- requires the division to report the findings of the study;
- imposes a repeal date; and
- makes technical and conforming amendments.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

63I-2-273 (Effective 05/06/26) (Superseded 07/01/26), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Third Special Session, Chapter 5

63I-2-273 (Effective 07/01/26), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 124

ENACTS:

73-10-32.7 (Effective 05/06/26), Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **63I-2-273** is amended to read:

63I-2-273 (Effective 05/06/26) (Superseded 07/01/26). Repeal dates: Title 73.

[Reserved] Section 73-10-32.7, Study regarding water losses, is repealed July 1, 2027.

Section 2. Section **63I-2-273** is amended to read:

63I-2-273 (Effective 07/01/26). Repeal dates: Title 73.

(1) Section 73-10-32.7, Study regarding water losses, is repealed July 1, 2027.

(2) Subsection 73-10g-607(5), regarding a requirement to report to an interim committee, is repealed January 1, 2027.

Section 3. Section **73-10-32.7** is enacted to read:

73-10-32.7 (Effective 05/06/26). Study regarding water losses.

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Division" means the Division of Water Resources.

(b) "Public water system" means the same as that term is defined in Section 19-4-102.

(2) The division shall, in conjunction with the Division of Drinking Water, conduct a study regarding water loss by public water systems under which the division shall:

(a) compile and analyze water loss estimates based on system size from data provided by a public water system for the period beginning January 1, 2015, and ending December 31, 2024;

(b) provide an overview of industry standard water loss principles and practices, including for both public system and end use water losses; and

(c) make recommendations on how to:

(i) improve water loss estimates and associated data reliability; and

(ii) reduce actual water losses.

(3) The division shall report the division's findings under the study described in Subsection (2) to the Legislative Water Development Commission by no later than October 31, 2026.

Section 4. **Effective Date.**

(1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), this bill takes effect May 6, 2026.

(2) The actions affecting Section 63I-2-273 (Effective 07/01/26) take effect on July 1, 2026.